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**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

John Hannah Building, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, MI 48909  
ROLAND HARMES, Director

January 4, 1993

Mr. Robert Bowden, Chief  
Emergency Response Branch  
U.S. EPA, Fifth floor  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Bowden:

SUBJECT: Sampling & Analysis Assistance  
Unknown Gross Beta Source

Over the last year and a half, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) and Chem Met Services of Wyandotte, Michigan, have been attempting to identify the radioactive source(s) of elevated gross beta activity in liquid from dewatering sumps at the Chem Met Services facility. The consultant and analytical laboratory (University of Michigan/School of Public Health) used by Chem Met to conduct the studies has been unable to identify the isotopic source, although the elevated gross beta levels (1000-7000 pCi/l) were confirmed.

The water collected from the dewatering sumps is contaminated with volatile organics. Neither the University of Michigan lab or the MDPH lab is set up to handle this type of sample other than by gamma spectroscopy. Since it has already been determined that no significant gamma activity is present, I am requesting the assistance of the U.S. EPA to sample and analyze liquid from the dewatering sumps to identify the source(s) of the gross beta activity.

I have been in contact with Mr. Jack Barnette, Chief of the Radiation Section, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. EPA to discuss this matter. I have forwarded copies of two reports to him regarding the studies to date.

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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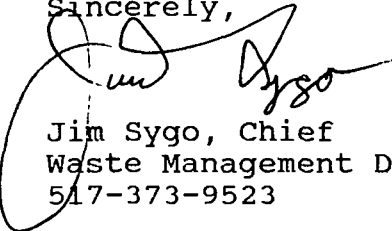
Mr. Robert Bowden

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January 4, 1993

If you have any questions, please contact me at Waste Management Division, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or at 517-373-9523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Sygo", is written over a circular stamp or seal that is partially visible and mostly obscured by the signature.

Jim Sygo, Chief  
Waste Management Division  
517-373-9523

cc: Mr. Jack Barnette, U.S. EPA  
Mr. Ross Powers, U.S. EPA  
Mr. Robert DeHaan, DPH  
Mr. Robert Colburn, Chem Met Services  
Ms. Lynne King, DNR-Livonia  
HWP/C&E file  
Mr. David Slayton, DNR